

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Previously Presented): An ultra-low carbon stainless steel which comprises a seal function layer in a surface layer,

wherein the seal function layer is formed by an ion implantation method, and

the ultra-low carbon stainless steel contains carbon in an amount of 0.01% by weight or less.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Previously Presented): The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to claim 1, wherein the ion is a nitrogen ion.
4. (Canceled).
5. (Previously Presented): The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to any one of claims 1 or 3, wherein the ultra-low carbon stainless steel is dehydrogenated in advance.
- 6-7. (Canceled).

8. (New): The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to claim 1, wherein the ultra-low carbon stainless steel is limited to 0.006% to 0.008% by weight.

9. (New): The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to claim 1, wherein the seal function layer is applied to one of a seal valve or pipe joint.